

# The Panda Book Awards 2013-2014

Compiled by the Panda Awards Steering Committee

## MATURE READERS (grades 9-12)

Colfer, Chris. ***Struck by Lightning: The Carson Phillips Journal***. 2012

Follows the story of outcast high school senior Carson Phillips who blackmails the most popular students in his school into contributing to his literary journal to bolster his college application; his goal in life is to get into Northwestern and eventually become the editor of The New Yorker Magazine.

Grant, Michael. ***BZRK***. 2012

This is no ordinary war – nano technology is the weapon of choice and the brain is the battleground for control of the human mind. Charles and Benjamin Armstrong, conjoined twins and owners of the Armstrong Fancy Gifts Corporation, have a goal: to turn the world into their vision of utopia. No wars, no conflict, no hunger. And no free will. Opposing them is a guerrilla group of teens, code name BZRK, who are fighting to protect the right to be messed up, to be human.

Green, John. ***The Fault in Our Stars***. 2012

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and as they fall in love they both wonder how they will be remembered.

James, P.D. ***Death Comes to Pemberley***. 2011

Pemberley is thrown into chaos after Elizabeth Bennett's disgraced sister Lydia arrives and announces that her husband Wickham has been murdered.

Jonasson, Jonas. ***The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared***. 2012

On his one-hundredth birthday Allan Karlsson makes his escape from the old people's home and embarks on an unlikely and momentous adventure.

Kagan McLeod. ***Infinite Kung Fu***. 2011

The world is under the control of a mysterious emperor, who is represented by five cruel kung fu masters who lead his armies. When soldier Yang Lei Kung tires of blindly following his master's evil orders, he goes looking for enlightenment and discovers that it is up to him to put an end to the emperor's evil plans.

Preus, Margi. ***The Shadow on the Mountain***. 2012

In Nazi-occupied Norway, fourteen-year-old Espen joins the resistance movement, graduating from deliverer of illegal newspapers to courier and spy.

Tezemach Lemmon, Gayle. ***The Dressmaker of Kahir Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe***. 2012

Stranger than fiction, Kamila Sidiqi's life changed overnight when the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. After her father and brother were forced to flee, she became the sole breadwinner for her five siblings. Banned from school, confined to her home, and armed only with determination, she picked up a needle and thread to create a thriving business that saved their lives in this heroic true story.

Every school year, the Panda Steering Committee publicizes lists of highly recommended books for readers in international schools in China. The four reading categories are: Younger Readers (EC3-grade 2); Middle Readers (grades 3-5); Older Readers (grades 6-8); and Mature Readers (grades 9-12). Each list consists of eight titles that span a wide range of genres. Students are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible and are invited to vote for their favorite book in the week after Chinese New Year.

The Panda Book Awards initiative is now in its sixth year and its popularity has grown tremendously. During the first year, five international schools participated in voting. This year, over twenty international schools have joined the initiative, and 3,700 students

cast their votes. The reading initiative is the responsibility of the Panda Steering Committee, a group of international librarians in China. These professionals volunteer to read, review and discuss book titles submitted by other librarians or students. The goal of the Panda Book Awards initiative is to instill an enduring love of reading and to take students on an exciting reading adventure.

In the fall, the Panda 2013-2014 books should be available at all participating schools. In the meantime, explore the hand-out provided in this Bulletin issue and put the Panda titles on your summer reading list. Also visit the website <http://pandabookawards.wikispaces.com/> for more details on the Panda reading initiative.



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*(Books are listed in alphabetical order by author)*

## YOUNGER READERS (EC 3-grade 2)

DaCosta, Barbara. ***Nighttime Ninja***. 2012

Late at night, when all is quiet and everyone is asleep, a ninja creeps silently through the house in search of treasure. Soon he reaches his ultimate goal...and gets a big surprise! Will the nighttime ninja complete his mission?

Gaiman, Neil. ***Chu's Day***. 2013

Meet Chu. Chu is a small panda with a very big sneeze. When Chu sneezes, you REALLY don't want to get in the way. But a whole day of adventure will test Chu's sneeze-resisting powers to the limit - there's the library (dusty books!), the diner (pepper!), and then the circus (all those animals!). How big can a sneeze really be? Just wait and see.

Jorgensen, Norman. ***The Last Viking***. 2011

Let the pillaging begin! Children's Book Council of Australia picture book of the year winner, Norman Jorgensen, teams up with illustrator James Foley on this fun picture book about a boy who outwits local bullies by channelling his inner Viking.

Litwin, Eric. ***Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons***. 2012

Pete the Cat is wearing his favorite shirt, the one with the four totally groovy buttons. But when one falls off, does Pete cry? Goodness no! He just keeps on singing his song; after all, what could be groovier than three groovy buttons? Count down with Pete in this rocking new story from the creators of the bestselling Pete the Cat books.

Patel, Sanjay. ***Ganesha's Sweet Tooth***. 2012

An original story based on Hindu mythology, this book tells the story about how Ganesha's love of sweets led to a broken tusk and the writing of the epic poem, the Mahabharata. Includes author's note about the myth.

Reynolds, Aaron. ***Creepy Carrots***. 2012

The carrots that grow in Crackenhopper Field are the fattest and crispiest around, and Jasper Rabbit cannot resist pulling some to eat each time he passes by, until he begins hearing and seeing creepy carrots wherever he goes.

Willems, Mo. ***Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs***. 2012

Once upon a time, there were three hungry dinosaurs: Papa Dinosaur, Mama Dinosaur . . . and a Dinosaur who happened to be visiting from Norway. One day—for no particular reason—they decided to tidy up their house, make the beds, and prepare pudding of varying temperatures. And then—for no particular reason—they decided to go . . . someplace else. They were definitely not setting a trap for some unsupervised little girl. Definitely not!

William, Joyce. ***The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore***. 2012

Morris Lessmore loves words, stories and books, and after a tornado carries him to another land, dreary and colorless, he finds a single book in color that leads him to an amazing library where he learns that the books need him as much as he needs them.

## MIDDLE READERS (grades 3-5)

Blackwood, Sage. ***Jinx***. 2013.

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

Compestine, Ying Chang. ***Crouching Tiger***. 2011

When Vinson's grandfather comes to visit him from China, Vinson envisions that he will learn to be a kicking, crouching martial arts master! What he learns about traditions and love from his grandfather, in addition to his Tai Chi, is much more precious.

Hughes, Shirley. ***Hero on a Bicycle***. 2013

Paolo and his sister Constanza are desperate to help fight the Nazi occupation of Florence, but what can two teenagers with only a bicycle to help them do against a whole army?

Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night***. 2013

Alvin's mother has been getting bigger . . . and bigger. Alvin's sure it's all the mochi cakes she's been eating, but it turns

out she's pregnant! There are lots of scary things about babies, as everybody knows--there's learning CPR for the newborn and changing diapers (no way)--but the scariest thing of all is the fact that the baby could be a GIRL. As a result of the stress, Alvin develops a sympathetic pregnancy and hilarity definitely ensues.

Meloy, Maile. ***The Apothecary***. 2012

Fourteen-year-old Janie Scott, newly arrived in London from Los Angeles in 1952, becomes friends with a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows, and is drawn into a dangerous adventure with Benjamin when his father is kidnapped and Russian spies try to steal his book of secrets.

Pastis, Stephan. ***Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made***. 2013

Timmy may only be eleven, but with the help of his polar bear, Total, he already has plans for world domination. Plans that will make his mother rich and unpaid bills a thing of the past. And plans that will defeat Corrina Corrina, "The One Whose Name Shall Not Be Uttered". But she's not going away. Riotously funny, Timmy Failure is sure to have readers in stitches.

Singer, Marilyn. ***The Superheroes Employment Agency***. 2012

Poems about the Superheroes Employment Agency and the superheroes trying to find heroic jobs. Meet Blunder Woman, Stuporman, and Muffy the Vampire Sprayer as well as other funny takes on superheroes.

StJohn, Amanda. ***Bridget & Bo Build a Blog***. 2012

While on vacation, Bo learns how to write a blog, and when he comes back home he teaches his friend Bridget how to start and maintain one.

## OLDER READERS (grades 6-8)

Ferraiolo, Jack D. ***Sidekicks***. 2011

Scott Hutchinson, aka Bright Boy, the sidekick of Phantom Justice, begins to question how long he can remain in the shadow of the superhero after discovering that his nemesis, supervillain sidekick Monkeywrench, might be one of the most popular kids at his school.

Gardner, Sally. ***Maggott Moon***. 2013

In an alternate 1950s, Standish Treadwell is growing up in a Britain dominated by the dark, ruthlessly oppressive forces of The Motherland. Life is hard, but Standish struggles onwards - until his best and only friend Hector is taken away from him, and events take a new and more dangerous turn.

Gier, Kerstin. ***Ruby Red***. 2011

Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth Shepherd unexpectedly travels through time to the eighteenth century, and she must find out why her mother lied about her date of birth to hide her ability, research her history, and work with Gideon, another time traveler.

Harrison, Troon. ***The Horse Road***. 2012

Kallisto is a superb equestrian living in central Asia. On her way back from delivering horses to nomad breeders, Kallisto sees the Chinese army preparing to invade her city. Can she save her family and friends and protect the horses?

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Chomp***. 2012

The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family. Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.

Korman, Gordon. ***Ungifted***. 2012

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Kurlansky, Mark. ***A World Without Fish***. 2011

Describes what is happening to fish, the oceans, and the environment in the early twenty-first century, explaining how commonly consumed fish, such as tuna, cod, and salmon, are disappearing; and discussing the impact of overfishing on other species and the effects of fishing on the oceans.

Palacio, R.J. ***Wonder***. 2012

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.